

Effective 5/12/2015

Part 3
Utah Business Resource Centers Act

63N-3-301 Title.

This part is known as the "Utah Business Resource Centers Act."

Renumbered and Amended by Chapter 283, 2015 General Session

63N-3-302 Purpose.

The Legislature recognizes that:

- (1) the development of and assistance to business in Utah is a state public purpose necessary to assure the growth of the state's economy and provide adequate employment opportunities for its citizens;
- (2) public colleges and universities in the state hereafter, referred to as "host institutions," have academic and physical resources that can enhance economic development within the state through a partnership with the Governor's Office of Economic Development;
- (3) state funded economic development agencies, hereafter referred to as "agencies" could broaden and improve services to business clients through better regional and statewide coordination;
- (4) coordination of business clients needs is best done in the regions where they are established;
- (5) this coordination needs to be done under the direction of one designated state agency;
- (6) an important tool in these coordination efforts will be the development of a data base to identify, track, and assign agencies to be accountable for clients;
- (7) agency accountability can be improved through client tracking and monitoring at the regional level;
- (8) the state has historically experienced a high business start-up rate and has experienced a commensurate failure rate partially due to lack of coordination and accountability by state agencies;
- (9) the state's economy will continue to improve as state agencies and resources become more responsive to private business by identifying them, focusing on their needs, and tracking their progress; and
- (10) the governor and the Legislature will benefit from an annual report measuring tax revenue increases, new job creation, and other economic impact as a result of tracking and measuring state agencies' performance in the various regions of the state.

Renumbered and Amended by Chapter 283, 2015 General Session

63N-3-303 Definitions.

As used in this part, "business resource centers" means entities established by the Governor's Office of Economic Development in partnership with state public institutions of higher education as certified resource centers to provide private businesses with one-stop technical assistance and access to statewide resources and programs, and to identify, coordinate, track, and measure the impact of business resource programs provided by state agencies in the various regions of the state.

Renumbered and Amended by Chapter 283, 2015 General Session

63N-3-304 Establishment and administration of business resource centers -- Components.

- (1) The office shall establish business resource centers in at least four different geographical regions of the state where host institutions are located and the host institutions agree to enter into a business resource center partnership with the office.
- (2) The office, in partnership with a host institution, shall provide methodology and oversight for a business resource center.
- (3) A host institution shall contribute 50% of a business resource center's operating costs through cash or in-kind contributions, unless otherwise provided under Subsection 63N-3-307(3).
- (4) The office shall provide operational oversight and coordination of the business resource centers established under this part.
- (5)
 - (a) A business resource center shall work with state agencies in creating methods to coordinate functions and measure the impact of the efforts provided by the state agencies and the center.
 - (b) The host institution, state, local and federal governmental entities, quasi-governmental entities, and private entities may:
 - (i) participate in the activities offered by or through a business resource center; and
 - (ii) provide personnel or other appropriate links to the center.
 - (c)
 - (i) Other entities that are not initially involved in the establishment of a business resource center and that are capable of providing supportive services to Utah businesses may apply to the center to become a provider of services at the center.
 - (ii) Entities identified in Subsections (5)(a) and (b) shall provide the office with a service plan, to include funding, which would be made available or supplied to cover the expenses of their services offered at a business resource center.
- (6) A business resource center may:
 - (a) partner with the office, other host institutions, and other entities to develop and establish web-based access to virtual business resource center services over the Internet to assist in establishing and growing businesses in the state, particularly in those situations where traveling to a business resource center site is not practical;
 - (b) develop a data base and software for:
 - (i) tracking clients and their progress; and
 - (ii) tracking responses and services provided by state agencies and evaluating their effectiveness; and
 - (c) develop outreach programs and services targeted to business clients in rural areas of the state.
- (7) The office shall include in the annual written report described in Section 63N-1-301, a report on measured performance of economic development programs offered by or through established business resource centers.

Amended by Chapter 253, 2016 General Session

63N-3-305 Duties and responsibilities of a business resource center.

- (1) A business resource center shall:
 - (a) have a director;
 - (b) be the organization responsible for identifying, tracking, coordinating, and measuring output of assisted business clients in its region;

- (c) develop programs to aid business clients in finding needed resources;
 - (d) recruit state-funded agencies to locate and establish their programs in the business center's region;
 - (e) initiate and encourage business education programs, including programs in collaboration with public, private, and governmental and educational institutions; and
 - (f) work with the host institution in providing academic resources, including faculty and student assistance.
- (2) A business resource center shall collaborate with the host institution and state agencies to:
- (a) provide research, development, or training programs for new or existing businesses, industries, or high technology business located in its region;
 - (b) assist in providing needs assessment relating to new or existing businesses, industries, or high technology business in conjunction with other public or private economic development programs or initiatives;
 - (c) assist in providing business incubator space or services, or both, if considered feasible and practical, to clients based on criteria established by the office;
 - (d) work with local business leaders and government officials to help them formulate and implement sound, coordinated, and measurable economic development programs for their communities; and
 - (e) work with local government and other entities in its region in developing and certifying non-state funded satellite business resource centers.

Amended by Chapter 253, 2016 General Session

63N-3-306 Advisory group.

The office may convene an advisory group, as needed, to make recommendations regarding:

- (1) improvements to a business resource center;
- (2) the selection of a business-service provider; or
- (3) the general status of a business resource center's duties as described in Section 63N-3-305.

Amended by Chapter 253, 2016 General Session

63N-3-307 Office duties.

The office shall:

- (1) administer grants to business resource centers and provide operational oversight, coordination, and performance review to improve the effectiveness of state-funded business assistance programs throughout the state;
- (2) create a competitive budget allocation process regarding the operation and staffing of business resource centers established under this part; and
- (3) in accordance with Title 63G, Chapter 3, Utah Administrative Rulemaking Act, make rules establishing:
 - (a) matching fund exceptions under Subsection 63N-3-304(3);
 - (b) criteria for the approval, creation, and oversight of each business resource center and its staff, including a non-state funded satellite business resource center;
 - (c) metrics to report the performance of economic development output in each region serviced by a business resource center; and
 - (d) criteria for approving and overseeing business plans.

Amended by Chapter 253, 2016 General Session

